

STEM education. Unfortunately, instead of simply reauthorizing this bipartisan program, this bill undermines critical investments in science, technology, and research.

I would have voted against H.R. 880, the American Research and Competitiveness Act. While I am a strong supporter of making the Research and Development tax credit permanent, I do not support this legislation because this unpaid-for tax measure would add an estimated \$181.6 billion to the deficit over 10 years.

I would have voted against H.R. 2262, the SPACE Act of 2015. While I support the development of the commercial space industry, this legislation does not strike the appropriate balance between the needs of the industry and overall safety of the programs for the general public and future customers.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CAPTAIN JOHN J. LEVULIS

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Captain John J. Levulis. Captain Levulis proudly served our nation since 2012 in the U.S. Army, including one tour in Afghanistan. Nicknamed by his fellow soldiers as "Captain America," Captain Levulis epitomized the leadership, courage, and nobility of a true American hero.

Captain Levulis was commissioned into the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant in 2012, following his graduation from the Niagara University ROTC program. He completed the Infantry Basic Officer course at Fort Benning, Georgia. Following basic training, Captain Levulis was reassigned to the 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment at Fort Drum in New York, where he served as a heavy weapons platoon leader. He was deployed to Afghanistan in May of 2013 as a platoon leader and returned in 2014. After returning from Afghanistan, Captain Levulis was again stationed at Fort Drum.

Captain Levulis received numerous awards including the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Overseas Service Medal, NATO Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, and the Parachutist Badge.

On May 1st, Captain Levulis tragically lost his life in a motor vehicle accident while on duty in New Jersey. He leaves behind his loving wife, Julianne, mother, Barbara, father, Gary, and younger brother, James. My condolences go out to Captain Levulis' entire family and friends. New York State and our nation has lost a valiant soldier, honorable citizen, and first-rate man in Captain John J. Levulis.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT WILLIE C. JONES

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Staff

Sergeant Willie C. Jones of the U.S. Army Reserves, who was awarded the Purple Heart for his sacrifice for our country.

After being born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and growing up in Hawaii, Staff Sergeant Jones entered the Army in February 1994. He served in combat arms units on active duty for seven years before transferring to the Army Reserves. His first assignment in the Army Reserves was in the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment, the only infantry unit in the Army Reserves.

Staff Sergeant Jones served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from November 2008 to August 2009. In October 2012, he deployed to FOB Ghazni in Afghanistan as a Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Liaison NCO.

While serving at FOB Ghazni, Staff Sergeant Jones sustained significant injuries as a result of explosions due to enemy fire on June 18, 2013.

In addition to the Purple Heart, Staff Sergeant Jones has received the Combat Action Badge, 6 Army Commendation Medals, 7 Good Conduct Medals, 2 NATO Medals, 8 Overseas Bars, Iraq and Afghanistan Campaign Medals, the Gold Recruiter Badge with three sapphires, and the Army Recruiting Ring.

Staff Sergeant Jones currently resides in Decatur, Illinois, and works as a Movements Supervisor with the 236th Inland Cargo Transfer Company. I'm proud to honor him for receiving the Purple Heart, and am humbled by his bravery, service and sacrifice for our nation.

CONGRESSIONAL MOLDOVA CAUCUS STATEMENT ON THE RIGA SUMMIT

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, the Honorable DAVID E. PRICE, and the Congressional Moldova Caucus, the Republic of Moldova is a friend of the United States of America, and a partner country of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Like Ukraine and Georgia, Moldova is part of a strategically significant segment of Eastern Europe that looks toward Europe for a promising and prosperous future.

The full integration of Moldova into the European Union is also in the strategic interest of the United States. As has been the case with other Eastern European nations that fully integrated into the European Union, integration will help Moldova develop new economic opportunities and contribute to the overall security and stability of the region.

The Republic of Moldova signed an Association Agreement with the European Union in 2014 and is currently implementing its ambitious Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA). Moldova also reached a visa liberalization agreement with the EU.

As the EU Summit in Riga convenes, we call on our allies in Europe to fully engage the Republic of Moldova and to chart out its bid for accession into the Union under the terms of the Lisbon Treaty. A failure to fully recognize the aspirations and legal rights of the Republic of Moldova in its application only stands

to promote the false narrative that Moldova, along with Ukraine and Georgia, falls into an 'exclusive sphere of Russian interests in Europe', and runs counter to the democratic values of the United States and Europe.

Congress and the Obama Administration should continue to support the Republic of Moldova in its statecraft, economic and security capabilities. Progress demonstrated by the Republic of Moldova on a sustained path towards Western integration should be recognized. For example, despite Moldova's entering into an Association Agreement with the European Union, the Russian Federation continues to ban imports of Moldovan products, exert pressure on the Moldovan people, and disseminate propaganda to the Moldovan people. The Russian Federation continues to maintain a substantial military presence in Transnistria, in violation the Russian Federation's commitments at the Istanbul Summit. The Russian Federation continues to use this military presence—along with its fuel exports and intelligence assets within Moldovan territory—to continually destabilize the region.

Smaller and more fragile states across the globe face increasing pressure, destabilization and aggression from larger, totalitarian governments. These states are susceptible to falling into 'regional spheres of influence' without sustained, consolidated efforts of support by the world's democracies. Last Congress, the House and Senate both passed resolutions calling on the Obama Administration to support the Republic of Moldova's capabilities in reforming its judicial sector, fighting corruption, and reforming economic markets. In addition to continuing in these important reforms, we urge the Obama Administration to work in bilateral and multilateral forums to monitor human rights abuses in the region and help advance U.S. investment in Moldova's energy markets to lessen its dependence on Russian sources. We are struck by the Moldovan people's demonstrated commitments to free markets, democracy, and the rule of law. The United States must continue to serve as a leader in the community of Western nations by supporting the people of Moldova in their commitment toward integration.

HIGHLIGHTING SUMMER MEAL PARTNERS INAUGURAL EVENT ON MAY 30, 2015

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring much-needed attention to summer meal programs for food insecure families. A new collaboration of community organizations in Lucas County, Ohio called Summer Meal Partners is working to raise awareness and increase participation in summer meal programs in that county. This group can be a model for similar collaborative efforts supporting underserved communities around the country. Summer Meal Partners will hold their official kickoff event on May 30th of this year.

Today in Lucas County just eight percent of the 54,135 children that are eligible for free or reduced price school meals participate in readily-available summer meal support. This support could make a real difference in the